

Christian Courier



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First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
205 S. Elm, 618/532-7383
Centralia, Illinois 62801

**Connecting people to Christ
through worship, study, and relationships,
magnifying God’s love and grace for all.**

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June 27, 2026

From the Pastor’s Desk

Hello, Disciples!

I can’t believe it’s already been a year of ministry together! It has all passed so quickly. I have loved getting to know this community and taking part in FCC traditions. Together, we have thought about our Disciples identity and heritage and how our church fits into the picture. We’ve talked about our dreams for the church and our grief for the days that have been left behind. We’ve wrestled together in worship and in the study of scripture, seeking a better sense of what it means to be a faithful Christian in 2026. I am so grateful to all of you who took a chance on a young seminary student, and I look forward to more good years ahead.

As we step into our second year together, let’s take a moment to look back before we look ahead. Right now, we are studying the book of Acts together. This week, in fact, we’re looking at Stephen’s great sermon and subsequent martyrdom. So much of his speech was a look back at the entire history of their people - Abraham, Moses, David, and the Prophets - to highlight the failures they had made in the past so that they might not make the same mistakes now. Healthy ministry does much of the same work. We have to look back on the 170 years of our church and reckon honestly with the missteps, conflicts, and struggles - not to be ashamed about the past, but to be equipped to take on the future. No matter where we go or who we choose to be together, we carry forward the legacy of those who came before us. In a way, we shape it. The saints of First Christian Church Centralia have their trust in God’s provision and in the church’s future leaders validated when we steward our church’s resources well. Through our successful ministry, by proclaiming the hope of the Gospel and making that hope real right here in our community, we honor those who came before us and further prepare the way for those who will come after us. By avoiding the pitfalls that those before us fell into, we honor the hard lessons they learned. So I ask that you continue dreaming of a better future. Bring your vision to the table. Speak up, lend a hand. And together, with the wisdom of scripture, our sacred traditions, and those who came before us, we will see how God blesses the work that we do.

Pastor Adam

Congregational Meeting—July 5

Approval of members serving for the upcoming year.

FCC Homecoming 170th Year Celebration October 11, 2026 5-7 pm

If you have any favorite photos of events held at or sponsored by our church over these 170 years, please loan them to us to use in the collage/slide show being prepared by Sherry Brooks, Sharon Smith and Pastor Adam.

Look through those digital and “old fashioned” photos. You can email the digital photos and we can make copies of the old prints. Let’s celebrate the past 170 years and focus on making visions happen in our future years. If you would like to help organize this event, please let us know.

Bible Study—Wednesday Evenings

Bible study continues every Wednesday at 6 pm. Each week, Pastor Adam will teach about a new aspect to approach scripture. Together we will test the approaches and discuss how the way we read the Bible translates to how we live the life of faith.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Rev. Dr. Andrew Packman on his promotion at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. Effective July 1, Rev. Dr. Packman will become the Associate Professor of Christian Ethics, supported by the McVay Endowment, and the Director for Formation.

Announced during the Commencement in April, the McVay chairship reflects the esteem with which United’s board and facility members regard Professor Packman.

In February, Dean Kyle Roberts proudly reported that Dr. Packman was being promoted from assistant to associate professor and transitioning from a three-year contract to a tenure-track position.

Andrew is the son of Stephen & Deb Packman and a Timothy of First Christian Church.

**Worship in Fellowship Hall
Worship with Flavor!
Sunday, July 5
Breakfast 9:15 a.m. / Worship 9:30 a.m.
Celebrate America’s 250th birthday!**



Disciples Ladies Lunch—July 7

Please mark your calendar for **Tuesday, July 7**. We will meet for lunch at 11:30 at Jerry's Grill & Bar in Wamac. All ladies are welcome. Good food and wonderful fellowship. See Dottie for information.

Women's Tea—August 1

First Christian Church of Centralia is hosting a Disciples Women Tea on **Saturday, August 1, 2026 at 2pm**. This invitation has been extended to the Regional Disciples churches as well as our Covenant churches. It is open to anyone who would like to attend and we hope to see you there. You are invited to bring a non-perishable food item that will be donated to the CCBA Food Pantry.

Outreach News

~ Independence Day Parade, Saturday, July 4, 1 pm. Outreach will once again be serving hot dogs, chips and water to the veterans and others who are participating in the parade. Please join us as we serve our community. If you have questions, please reach out to Heather Rinderer.

~ Laundry assistance date is set for July 1, from 9:00 -11:30am, at Westside Laundry on Broadway.

~ Baby bottles for the Pregnancy Care Clinic are due. If you have not returned your bottle, please contact Heather Rinderer.

August Courier Deadline—July 22

Deadline for the **August Courier** is **Wednesday, July 22**. Please submit all information & calendar items to the church office by noon. **Articles cannot be accepted after the deadline. We appreciate your understanding.** Articles, images and information must be sent to the church email address: centraliafirstchristian@gmail.com



~ Thank you to Evia Stephenson for coordinating and cleaning up coffee time each week. Evia makes sure we have paper products, drinks and treats on Sundays when no one is signed up to host.

**Board Meeting—Monday, July 20
6 pm**

PLEASE NOTE

All doors are locked at 9:45 a.m. each Sunday morning as a safety precaution. An attendant will be available to welcome anyone arriving after 9:45 a.m.

Prayer Requests

Joys & Thanksgiving

Pastor Adam's 1 year anniversary with FCC
Deterings are okay
Many blessing from God
Back in church
Going to Florida to visit my sister
My family & faith family
Family & friends
Jesus, daily blessings
God's mercy & grace
Maxine in church
Camp Walter Scott
Clayton Summers
Beautiful weather at camp & counseling at camp
Sunshine & rain
Our graduates
Ruth Ann at the piano
Kathy & Paul back in church
Kathy's beautiful solo
Blessing from God, home, love, family, friends
Forgiveness

Guidance & Vision

Family of Mary Jane Wyatt
Malinda & family
Virgilia & David Detering
My boss, my students, my job
Changes and stress at work
Those not in church
Our church
Caregivers—all those caring for others
Our military
All in war zones, growing conflicts around the world

Health & Healing Concerns

Micki Kennedy
Terri Rogers
Glen Burkett
Sam Wilkinson
Lora Timmons
Steve & Ellen Stein
John Metcalf & Sharon Smith
Suzi Grubb
Mitchell Miller
Malinda Claybourn
Judy Tyndall
Deb Herrell
Fox family
Neff family
Ron Marshall
Beasley family
Maria Valencia & family
Mary & Jim
Kaylee
Kathleen
Kelsey
Laverne
Shut-ins
Roy Steinkamp
Allen Boettcher
Jim & Martha
Lisa Franz
Allen & Regina
Rhonda
Grimes family
Greg
Theresa Ullman
Barb Rinderer
Erwin
Kenny
Steve Bradley, Sr.
Allen Meers
Jeff—Terri's brother-in-law
Those in chronic pain, cancer and declining abilities
Those who are lonely, grieving, homebound (shut-ins)
All who are sick or in a hospital, nursing home, etc.

Members & Friends at Home or Long Term Care Facilities:

Micki Kennedy	Joyce Beasley
John Metcalf	Glen Burkett
Steve & Ellen Stein	Sam Wilkinson





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July 2026

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 9-11:30 Laundry Ministry at Westside Laundry in Centralia CCBA Food Pantry 9-12p/1-4p 6-Bible study	2 5:30 Prayer Time in Chapel	3	4 Happy 4th of July! Office Closed Outreach serving free lunch to veterans at Fairview Park
5 Worship with Flavor 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Worship-FH 10:45 Sunday School	6 4:30-Bells of Praise	7 11:30-Disciples Ladies Lunch at Jerry's Grill & Bar	8 CCBA Food Pantry 9-12p/1-4p 6-Bible Study	9	10	11
12 8:30-Elders Mtg. 9:30 Worship Sanctuary 10:45 Sunday School 1:30-Coin Club	13 4:30-Bells of Praise	14	15 CCBA Food Pantry 9-12p/1-4p 6-Bible study	16	17	18
COVENANT CHURCH VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT 1st UNITED METHODIST (5:30-8:15)						
19 8:30-Outreach Mtg. 9:30 Worship Sanctuary 10:45 Sunday School	20 4:30-Bells of Praise 6-Board Meeting	21	22 CCBA Food Pantry 9-12p/1-4p 12-Courier Articles Due 6-Bible Study	23 6:30-Thyme to Garden Fellowship Hall	24	25
26 9:30 Worship Sanctuary 10:45 Sunday School	27 4:30-Bells of Praise	28	29 CCBA Food Pantry 9-12p/1-4p 6-Bible Study	30	31	

*Happy
Birthdays*



YOUTH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 J.D. Shaw
- 3 Jan Poehler
- 8 Debbie Fontaine
Erin Mitchell
- 10 Clint Burgess
- 11 Larry Fark
- 12 Kathy Alcorn
- 13 Karen Rogers
- 14 Rachael Kell Karlsson
- 16 Mark Brooks
Kim Miller
- 17 Lou Peluso
- 18 Aaron Higgins
Derek Higgins
- 22 Conner Pennington
- 27 Nina Scattergood
Sharron Ervin
- 30 Danny Stover

- 1 Owen Caldwell



ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Terry & Debi Herrell
James & Melissa Schlau
- 6 Pete & Kathy Ballantini
- 17 Craig & Kathy Alcorn
- 19 John & Vanessa Randolph

July Elders

Communion Calling: Clint Burgess

- 5 Clint Burgess
- 12 Margie Burgess
- 19 Heather Rinderer
- 26 Peggy Amason

July Liturgists

- 5 Margie Burgess
- 12 Deb Packman
- 19 Dottie McCormick
- 26 Clint Burgess

July Deacons

- 5
- 12
- 19
- 26

July Greeters

- 5
- 12
- 19
- 26

July Coffee Fellowship Hosts

- 5 Nina Scattergood & Randy Fark
- 12
- 19
- 26

July Sound Technicians

- 5 Fellowship Hall
- 12 Beau McCormick
- 19 David Detering
- 26 Beau McCormick